

## ***FAQs.... For WV Archery in the Schools Program (Updated January 2009)***

### ***General Information:***

#### **1. Where can I find information on the program?**

Information about the WV Archery in the Schools (AIS) Program is available on our website at: [www.wvdnr.gov/archery](http://www.wvdnr.gov/archery), or by contacting the Program Coordinator, Jerry Westfall, at [jerrywestfall@wvdnr.gov](mailto:jerrywestfall@wvdnr.gov) or (304) 558-2771.

#### **2. What are the WV Archery in the School Program's benefits?**

The program teaches a life skill – something students can use beyond the classroom and possibly into adulthood. The program has no limiting factors (i.e., designed for all ages, sexes, and abilities), and is especially beneficially to non-athletic type who might not otherwise compete in scholastic athletic programs.

#### **3. What grades of children can participate in the WV Archery in the Schools Program**

The WV Archery in the Schools Program is available to children in Grades 4 – 12.

#### **4. What do I need to do to get started?**

All participating schools need one or more Basic Archery Instruction (BAI)-trained instructor(s) (see Training below) and National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)-approved equipment (see Equipment below).

#### **5. Who are the instructors for the program?**

Only BAI-certified individuals (see Training below) may instruct students and participate in the program. Typically, these individuals are school employees, such as PE instructors, coaches, or teachers.

#### **6. If I am a parent of an interested individual can I become certified?**

If school employees need additional assistance with after-school practices and/or tournament competition, they may suggest to other interested volunteers (parents, bow shop owners, etc.) that they take the BAI training so they may assist a school team. However, the school must acknowledge everyone as an instructor or assistant instructor of their school.

#### **7. Who pays for equipment?**

Equipment purchase is the responsibility of participating schools. However, schools can purchase equipment at discounted rates, and there are may be grants available to offset some equipment costs. For costs and fundraising ideas see Equipment below.

#### **8. Is the curriculum approved by the DOE?**

Yes. The West Virginia Department of Education helped design, and has approved, the program's curriculum.

9. How often are archery classes held at participating schools?

This is up to individual schools. Schools may choose to hold classes during PE class one day/week, as a PE 3-week module, as an after school activity/club, etc. However, the DNR prefers the program be taught first in PE classes, so the program will be available all students. Then, schools may opt to host after-school activities and/or clubs for additional training and upcoming tournament competition.

10. How can I get information on participating schools?

Over 165 schools are currently (2009) participating in the program. A list of participating schools is available at: [www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Archery\\_schools.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Archery_schools.shtm).

11. If my son/daughter goes to a school without certified instructor(s) can they still participate?

No. Only children in schools with certified instructors may participate in the program.

12. If my school (or my child's school) does not have AIS, what can I do to bring the program to the school?

Discuss the program with interested teachers and the school principal/administrator, referring them to the AIS website. If they are interested, have them contact Jerry Westfall at [jerrywestfall@wvdnr.gov](mailto:jerrywestfall@wvdnr.gov) or (304) 558-2771 for AIS program information or Billie Shearer at [billieshearer@wvdnr.gov](mailto:billieshearer@wvdnr.gov) or (304) 558-2771 to register for upcoming training.

13. What kinds of schools can participate in the program? Does this include home schools?

All schools can participate: public, private, and home schools. However, schools need a BAI-certified instructor(s) (see Training below) to participate.

14. What about potential liability?

Schools with BAI-certified instructors are covered from liability by their schools, the DNR, and NASP.

15. What kind of archery is taught in the WV Archery in the Schools Program?

Olympic-style target archery is taught in the program. The program does not teach bowhunting, 3-D archery, trick shooting, etc.

16. My school already has an archery program but it is not NASP. Can they participate?

No. Only schools with an instructor(s) who has gone through BAI course and who have NASP-approved equipment may participate in the AIS program.

17. Can summer camps have a WV Archery in the School Program?

No. However, summer camp instructors, if interested in demonstrating AIS techniques at camp, may take the BAI training (see Trainings) with the understanding they will be charged a \$50 registration fee for training and school teachers will be given training priority preference.

Also, the summer camp instructor(s) will not be part of the NASP program and will not be covered by DNR/NASP liability insurance.

18. Can Christian Schools participating in the Centershot Program participate in the AIS program?

Yes, provided they are associated with a recognized church school. However, the Centershot Program in churches only (i.e., not in a church school) can not be part of the AIS program. This is because the AIS program is geared to individual schools, and not to a collection of individual students from different schools who participate in an after-hours, church-related activity. Churches wishing to participate in the Centershot Program should visit the following website: [www.centershotministries.org](http://www.centershotministries.org).

**Equipment:**

1. Can I use any equipment?

No. Only NASP-approved equipment may be used in the WV Archery in the Schools Program. Descriptions of NASP-approved equipment (including Genesis 10-20 lb. adjustable compound bows, Easton 1820 aluminum arrows, etc.) can be found at the NASP website: <http://archeryintheschools.org>.

2. Where do I buy NASP-approved equipment?

NASP-approved equipment can not be purchased directly from the DNR; however, it can be purchased from the NASP website (<http://archeryintheschools.org>) or from participating sporting good dealers and on-line retailers. If the equipment is purchased from sources other than the NASP website, teachers should ensure the equipment is NASP-approved.

3. What is the minimum amount of equipment needed to get started?

For a team of 12, the absolute minimum amount of equipment would probably be: 1 net, 5 targets, 7 bows (2 of which are left-handed), and 5 dozen arrows (totaling about \$2,000). Of course, more equipment (such as an equipment box, bow hanger(s), string bows, arm guards, shooting gloves/tabs and more bows, targets, nets, and arrows) would facilitate instructing more students and enhance tournament competition.

4. What kind of facilities are used to practice AIS classroom shooting for children?

Typically, schools hold AIS classes in their own gymnasium. The DNR prefers this arrangement rather than outdoor ranges or after school facilities because the many more children are exposed to AIS and they can shoot year-round. However, the gymnasium/range should have enough room for tournament distances (15 meters, with clearance behind the shooting lines and behind/beside targets).

5. Can the DNR loan schools any equipment?

No, the DNR can not loan schools any equipment. The DNR encourages schools to purchase sufficient equipment for their entire team(s).

6. Can I use carbon arrows?

No. Only NASP-approved arrows (Easton 1820 aluminum arrows) can be used in the WV Archery in the Schools Program.

7. Can I modify my equipment?

No. Any modification of equipment may result in loss of liability insurance and dismissal from tournament competition.

8. Who maintains my equipment?

BAI-certified school archery instructors are responsible for all their own equipment maintenance, storage, and security. The DNR recommends schools establish a relationship with local sporting goods store technicians, archery/bowhunting organization members, or knowledgeable local individuals who may assist them with equipment maintenance.

9. Where do I find information on the equipment box, including design plans for self-construction?

The lockable equipment box may be purchased online from NASP at <http://archeryintheschools.org>. Plans to construct equipment boxes are available on the DNR website at [www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Archery\\_equipment\\_box.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Archery_equipment_box.shtm).

10. Where can I obtain fundraising ideas to purchase equipment?

Ideas for fundraising are presented on the NASP website at: <http://archeryintheschools.org> and then clicking In About. In West Virginia, various fundraising activities have included: 50/50 drawings and gun/bow raffles, bucket drives, car washes and pancake/bake sales, 3-D archery shoots, donations by coal/timber operators, car dealerships, civic organizations, hunting/fishing clubs, and wealthy individuals, and DEP/DOE grants.

11. Can my team use brass nocks?

For safety and liability reasons, NASP no longer recommends the use of brass nocks (also known as “nock locators”). Instead NASP suggests archers use a “tie-on” nock or the factory heat shrink nock. To read more, including “tie-on” nock tying instructions, visit [www.wvdnr.gov/archery](http://www.wvdnr.gov/archery) and then click News\Links.

***Trainings:***

1. How much does a training class cost?

Starting January 1, 2009, all school employees registered to take the Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) training will be required to pay a \$25 registration fee. This fee will be paid (via check, money order, or exact currency only) during the first morning of the training. Non-school employees may be allowed to register for training if space is available. If non-school employees, are accepted into a particular training, they must pay a \$50 registration fee (via check, money order or exact currency only) during the first morning of the training.

2. What is provided at trainings?

All manuals, CDs/DVDs, handouts, equipment, and tests are provided. However, the trainee is responsible for the cost of lodging, meals, travel, etc.

3. Where can I get information on your next training?

Information on all upcoming trainings will be advertised on our website at [www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Archery\\_training.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Archery_training.shtm) and on our quarterly newsletters (in pdf format) automatically sent to subscriber's e-mail addresses. Those wishing to receive our quarterly electronic newsletter should send a current e-mail address to [billieshearer@wvdnr.gov](mailto:billieshearer@wvdnr.gov). The quarterly newsletter will also be posted on our website at: [www.wvdnr.gov/archery](http://www.wvdnr.gov/archery).

4. How often do you schedule trainings?

Typically the DNR schedules a training every 3 months (i.e., about 4 trainings/year).

5. By taking this training am I eligible for Continuing Education Hours (CEH) credit?

Yes, however, teachers must receive prior approval from their principal/administrator and pre-enroll with their county school board.

6. Is the size of the class limited?

Yes. No more than 25 individuals may participate in any one training.

7. Can I host a training? If so, what do I need to do?

To host a training in your area, first download the online Excel spreadsheet "BAI Attendee Enrollment Form" from the following link: [www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Archery\\_training.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Archery_training.shtm), (bottom of the page). Then list 15 individuals (minimum) interested in the training – filling out these individual's contact information. Preferably, these individuals should be PE instructors, coaches or other school employees from as many different schools as possible. This form needs to be submitted to the DNR via email. You must also ensure an adequately-sized facility is available and free of charge, is adequately staffed, and is open to us for a 3-day period (during the week). We will also need access to a television/DVD player, tables, chairs, etc.

8. How soon can my hosted training take place?

As soon as an individual can provide the above-mentioned items, a training could be scheduled approximately 2-4 months following the last listed scheduled training on our website.

9. Can Centershot instructors take trainings?

Centershot instructors associated with schools may take AIS training but they will first need a letter from their principal/administrator. They will be charged the same rate as other school-related employees (\$25). Centershot instructors associated with a church and not a school will

be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; and if permitted to take training they will be charged \$50 to register and will be placed behind all teachers who represent schools.

### ***Tournaments:***

#### 1. Can any school participate in tournaments?

All schools (public, private, home schools) may participate in the WV State Tournament (with respect to any size limitations imposed by WV State Tournament guidelines) and provided they have a BAI-certified instructor(s). However, schools must pre-register under the tournament guidelines. Schools participating in the WV State Tournament may later participate in the National Tournament if they have a minimum qualifying score.

#### 2. How do schools register to participate in the 2009 WV State Tournament?

Information will be mailed out to all schools registered through the BAI Training process. Tournament registration information can also be found on our website at [www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Tournament.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Tournament.shtm).

#### 3. How are teams arranged at the WV State Tournament?

School teams are arranged in 3 divisions: Elementary School Division (4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade); Middle School Division (7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade); and High School Division (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade). **Note divisional breakdowns are based on grades and should be followed regardless of whether the actual school is an elementary school, middle school, junior high school, high school, K-12, or any other type.** Teams consist of 12 individuals, with a minimum of 4 of each sex. Therefore, teams may be made up of 8 boys and 4 girls, 8 girls and 4 boys, or any combinations thereof, provided each sex has a minimum of 4 participants.

#### 4. Can schools still participate in the WV State Tournament without 12 students?

Yes. Schools without enough students for team competition may still bring students to compete in individual competition.

#### 5. Can schools with children in different divisions be combined to make a team?

Yes, provided they are of the same school and only the oldest possible division is created. For instance, 3 members of an unnamed middle school's Elementary School Division team may be combined with 9 members of a the same school's Middle School Division team, to make a Middle Schools Division team for that school, but not a Elementary School Division team. However, the school must designate which students will represent the Middle School Division team before the registration deadline.

#### 6. Are instructors required to send copies of acknowledgement forms?

Yes. All instructors (including volunteers) registering to bring teams to the State Tournament must also send a copy of a pre-signed 2009 State Tournament Instructors Acknowledgement Form from the school's principal or the county superintendent by the registration deadline. The school may produce their own 2009 State Tournament Instructors Acknowledgement Form or download a sample 2009 State Tournament Acknowledgement Form at [www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Tournament.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Tournament.shtm).

7. Is there a maximum number of teams a certified instructor can bring to the State Tournament?

A certified instructor can only bring a maximum of two (2) divisional teams to the State Tournament. For instance, if an instructor teaches at both an unnamed middle school (having an Elementary School Division team) and an unnamed middle school (having both an Elementary School Division team and a Middle School Division team) may wish to bring only the two divisional teams at the middle school, and allow another instructor to bring the elementary school division team. Of course, if an instructor wishes to bring one divisional team from two separate schools, they will need a 2009 State Tournament Instructors Acknowledgement Form for both schools when they register both schools separately.

8. Is there a State Tournament fee?

There will be a \$10 non-refundable fee for each student participating in the 2009 State Tournament. Teachers must collect this money from students and submit a single check or money order for the entire team amount (maximum \$120) when registering, before the registration deadline. Although the fee is non-refundable it can be transferred to another student if there is a substitution.

9. Is there a minimum bow number required for teams at the State Tournament?

Yes. All participating school teams in each Division must have enough bows so no more than 2 students (of the same handedness) shares a bow. This is because each 12-member class team will be split into two shooting blocks. For example, a school's Elementary School Division team having 12 individuals, 3 of which are left-handed, must have a minimum of 5 right-handed bows and 2 left-handed bows to participate as a team. A team with all right-handed shooters would obviously need 6 right-handed bows. **All teams interested in participating in the 2009 WV State Tournament, should raise money well in advance to purchase the required number of bows for team competition.**

10. Can two teams at one school share bows?

No. Each school, and each Division at the same school, must have enough bows to accommodate their own team. For instance, the Elementary School Division team and the Middle School Division team at a combined elementary/middle school must enough bows for both of their teams at the State Tournament. However, if a bow should break at the tournament, one may borrowed from another team not shooting at the same time.

11. When is the registration deadline and what is required?

As the 2009 State Tournament is scheduled for March 28, 2009, all registration material must be received by the DNR on or before the registration deadline of February 23, 2009. All items must be received by this date. For tournament registration items, please go to: [www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Tournament.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Tournament.shtm). **Teams are encouraged to have tryouts to select 12 individual team members well before the State Tournament deadline.**

12. Do teams have assigned shooting/practice times at the State tournament?

Yes. Teams will be given shooting/practice times (same hour) via email and on the website before the event. **It is strongly encouraged that all coaches and shooters arrive 1 hour**



**before their assigned shooting times to check-in**, as check-in may take some time for team additions, deletions, name corrections, etc. Otherwise teams may not have sufficient time to complete check-in prior to their assigned shooting period, and their shooting period may be forfeited.

13. Basically, how do teams practice and score at the tournament during their assigned times?

Teams will have 1 round of practice followed by 3 rounds of shooting at 10 meters. Then, teams will have 1 round of practice followed by 3 rounds of scored shooting at 15 meters.

14. Can teams bring their wooden bow boxes to the State tournament?

No, because these boxes may damage the facility and are obtrusive to other teams. Teams are encouraged to bring bows in individual cases (preferably) cloth. However, bows may be carried together in a cardboard box, or uncased by individual students (if absolutely necessary).

15. Can teams alter bows to improve accuracy?

No. Any alteration or modifications to a bow (e.g. pencil/ink sighting lines, whisker biscuit rests and other modified rests, etc.) by an individual or a team will result in the immediate disqualification of the individual/team. Registration fees will not be returned following disqualifications.

16. Where do I get the complete rules for the 2009 WV State Tournament?

This is located at our website at: [www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Tournament.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Tournament.shtm).

17. How does the DNR determine the location and date for the WV State Tournament?

For now, the WV State Tournament will be held in the Summersville National Guard Armory. This site was selected because of it's location (center of the State), adequate and available staff, closeness to a major transportation corridor (U.S. Route 19), lodging and dining availability, and absence of a rental fee. The WV State Tournament always precedes the NASP National Tournament.

18. Is there a limit to the number of individuals/teams that may participate in the State Tournament

Because of the popularity of the WV State Tournament, the number of participating students will be limited to 500. If more than 500 apply, the method for determining participation will be follow a pre-determined formula, listed on our website at [www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Tournament.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Tournament.shtm).

19. Where do I find information on the NASP National Tournament?

This is located on the NASP website at: <http://archeryintheschools.org> and then selecting News & Events.